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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:

Hiroaki Kukita et al.

Art Unit: Examiner:

Serial No.: Filed:

Title:

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Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Before examining the referenced application on the merits, please amend the application as noted above and consider the application the following remarks.

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IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Insert before the heading "Background of Invention," on page 1:

Cross-Reference to Related Applications

This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/102,432, filed on March 20, 2002, which claims priority from Japanese Application Serial No. 2001-114887, filed April 13, 2001.